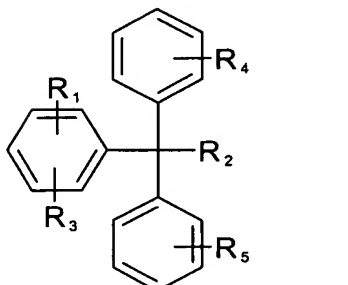


Amendments to the Claims:

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUN 2005

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A process for preparing a compound of formula I



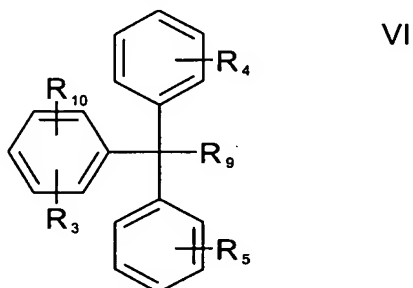
wherein R_1 is a reactive substituent or an attachment to a solid phase;

R_2 is a reactive substituent; and

R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are each independently hydrogen or one or more substituents attached to each benzene ring and selected from hydroxy, amino, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{1-10} -alkoxy, C_{1-10} -alkylamino, di- C_{1-10} -alkylamino, carbamoyl, C_{1-10} -alkylcarbamoyl, di- C_{1-10} -alkylcarbamoyl, halo- C_{1-10} -alkyl, halogeno and nitro;

in free or salt form; comprising

(a) reacting a compound of formula VI with an electrophile:



wherein R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are as defined above;

R_9 is $-OH$, $-OM$ or $-OMX$, where M is metal and X is a nucleophilic substituent;

R_{10} is $-M$ or $-MX$, where M is metal and X is a nucleophilic substituent;

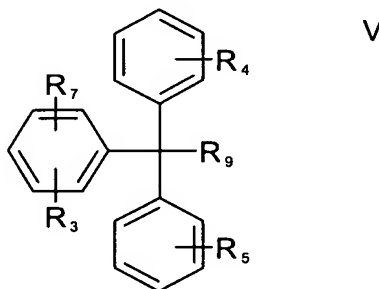
in free or salt form;

and hydrolyzing the resulting compound to form a compound of formula I wherein R_2 is hydroxy;

(b) optionally converting a compound of formula I wherein R_2 is hydroxy to a compound of formula I wherein R_2 is other than hydroxy;

- (c) optionally converting R_1 in a compound of formula I to an alternative R_1 group;
- (d) optionally deprotecting a compound of formula I in protected form; and
- (e) where required, converting a compound of formula I obtained in free form into the desired salt form, or vice versa.

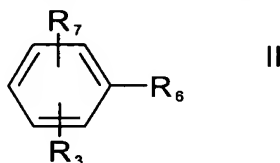
Claim 2 (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein compound of formula VI is prepared by reacting a compound of formula V with a metal or organometallic compound:



wherein R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_9 are as defined above; and
 R_7 is a nucleophilic substituent.

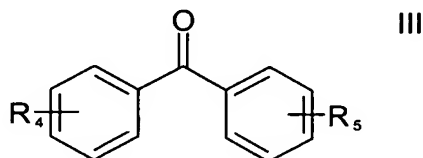
Claim 3 (original): A process according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula V is prepared by:

- (i) reacting a compound of formula II with a metal or organometallic compound



wherein R_6 and R_7 are each a nucleophilic substituent and R_3 is as defined above and is protected if necessary by a removable protecting group; and

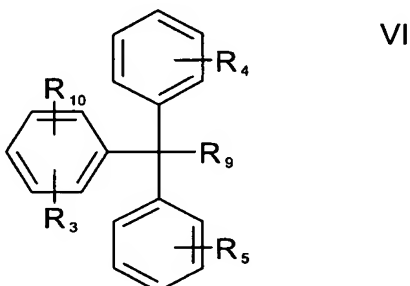
- (ii) reacting the compound obtained in (i) with a compound of formula III



wherein R_4 and R_5 are as defined above and are protected if necessary by a removable protecting group.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a solid phase support system, comprising preparing a compound of formula I by a process as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, and coupling the compound with a suitably derivatised or functionalised solid phase material.

Claim 5 (original): A compound of formula VI in free or salt form

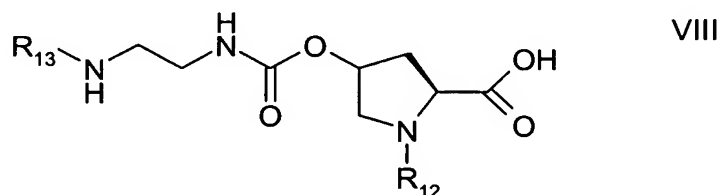


wherein R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are each independently hydrogen or one or more substituents attached to each benzene ring, and are selected from hydroxy, amino, C_{1-10} -alkyl, C_{1-10} -alkoxy, C_{1-10} -alkylamino, di- C_{1-10} -alkylamino, carbamoyl, C_{1-10} -alkylcarbamoyl, di- C_{1-10} -alkylcarbamoyl, halo- C_{1-10} -alkyl, halogeno or nitro, optionally protected by a removable protecting group;

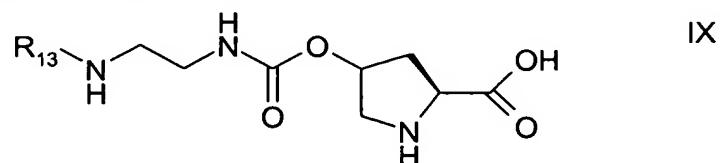
R_9 is $-OH$, $-OM$ or $-OMX$, where M is metal and X is a nucleophilic substituent; and

R_{10} is $-M$ or $-MX$, where M is metal and X is a nucleophilic substituent.

Claim 6 (original): A process for preparing a compound of formula VIII



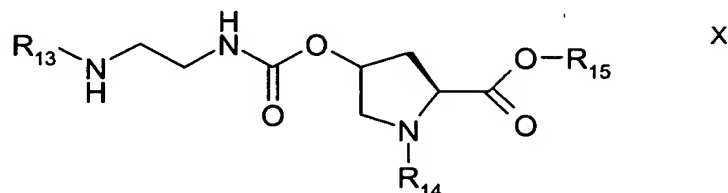
wherein R_{12} and R_{13} are each a removable protecting group and R_{12} and R_{13} are different; comprising reacting a compound of formula IX



with a suitable R_{12} donor compound.

Claim 7 (original): A process according to claim 6, wherein the compound of formula IX is prepared by

(i) hydrolysing a compound of formula X



wherein R_{13} is as defined in claim 6,

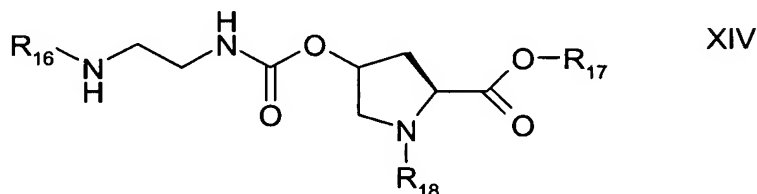
R_{14} is a removable protecting group and R_{14} is different to R_{12} and R_{13} , and

R_{15} is a blocking group removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis,

to obtain the corresponding carboxylic acid, and

(ii) removing the protecting group R_{14} in the resulting carboxylic acid.

Claim 8 (original): A compound of formula XIV



wherein R_{16} is a removable protecting group other than fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, and is different to R_{18} ;

R_{17} is hydrogen or a blocking group removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; and

R_{18} is hydrogen or a removable protecting group other than fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl.

Claim 9 (original): A compound according to claim 8, wherein R_{16} is tert-butoxycarbonyl.

Claim 10 (original): A process for producing a compound of formula VIII as defined in claim 6, wherein R_{12} is fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl and R_{13} is a removable protecting group other than fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, comprising reacting a compound of formula IX with a fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl donor compound.